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**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD  
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

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Property Address:	<b>6824 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW</b>	<b>X</b>	Agenda
Landmark/District:	<b>Takoma Park Historic District</b>		Consent Calendar
Meeting Date:	<b>December 19, 2019</b>	<b>X</b>	Concept Review
H.P.A. Number:	<b>19-439</b>	<b>X</b>	Alteration
			New Construction
			Demolition
			Subdivision

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Owner Steven Preister, represented by Suhaib Shah of Solenergi, seeks on-going concept review for installation of 12 solar panels on the front (east) roof of his house in the Takoma Park Historic District.

**Property Description**

Built in 1912, 6824 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW is a two-story house that is elevated from the street by a series of steps leading to a full-width front porch. The house features an asphalt clad side-gable roof with a large central shed-roof dormer.

**Previous Reviews**

In September 2018, the Board approved five panels on the roof of the front porch, four panels on the front dormer, and two panels above the dormer but found the installation of 12 additional panels on the front roof slope to be discordant with the color and texture of the roof in such a prominently visible street-facing location. In October 2019, the Board reviewed a modified plan for the 12 panels that were proposed to be installed tighter to the roof (4” above the roof rather than 6”) and enframed by a skirt board around each group of panels. The Board found that the installation remained incompatible with the scale, texture, color and finish quality of the roof, and recommended that the applicant consider products that could address this incompatibility.

**Revised Proposal**

The revised plans include installing a film over the 12 front-facing panels – SolarSkin, supplied by Sistine Solar – that would replicate the color, texture and overall appearance of the underlying shingle roof. The film is based on a computer-generated image of the existing roof being embedded in the product, which can be added to any solar panel with a minimal loss in efficiency.

**Evaluation**

The revised proposal is successful in addressing the aspects of the proposal that the Board identified as incompatible in the previous two reviews. By replicating the color, scale, finish and texture, the panels would no longer be discordant or incongruous with the building’s roof or the streetscape of this block.

**Recommendation**

*The HPO recommends that the Board find the installation of solar panels on the front roof slope, clad in a film that replicates the scale, color, texture, and finish of the surrounding roof, to be compatible with the character of the Takoma Park Historic District.*



*Photo rendering of 6824 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW with traditional solar panels*



*Photo rendering of 6824 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW with "SolarSkin" added to panels*